

Dutchess County Planning Board

DRAFT ~~DRAFT~~ MINUTES – November 4, 2015

Present

Colleen Cruikshank
Joel Diemond
Michael Dupree
Hans Hardisty
Hans Klingzahn
James Nelson
Warren Smith
Jennifer Coccozza, *Staff*
Lynn Schara, *Staff*
Anne-Marie Smith, *County Attorney Liaison*
Eoin Wrafter, *Staff*

Absent

Edward Hauser
Jerry Hutchings, *Legislative Liaison*
Jill Way
John Weisman
Rick Wilhelm
Randall Williams

Joel Diemond, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM.

A motion to accept without change the minutes from our January 14, 2015, meeting was made by Colleen Cruikshank and seconded by Warren Temple Smith. There were no objections, and the minutes were accepted.

A motion to accept without change the minutes from our May 13, 2015, meeting was made by Colleen Cruikshank and seconded by Jim Nelson. There were no objections, and the minutes were accepted.

A motion to accept without change the minutes from our September 9, 2015, meeting was made by Michael Dupree and seconded by Hans Klingzahn. There were no objections, and the minutes were accepted.

Commissioner's Update - Eoin Wrafter

The Department has completed 389 referrals through October 31st. We may exceed our total projection by the end of the year. There are a lot of new zoning board of appeal and planning board secretaries, so we are trying to work out what needs to be referred to the County to get a complete packet from them, which is lengthening our response time. As a result, our response rate of returning them within 21 days has dropped to 85%, down a bit from our target of 90%. While there does appear to be a slight increase in referrals, Eoin felt that may be due to resubmitted projects moving forward, as opposed to all new projects being initiated.

Referral Exemption Process

As a reminder, this process involves exemptions for local decisions (sheds, decks, and pools), which currently require a referral to the County. This exemption process allows municipalities to sign up to participate in an IMA (inter-municipal agreement) for 4 years, with 1 additional extension year. Using our 2014 statistics, referrals would have been reduced by 22% if this

process had been in place. Packets will be mailed to municipalities this week, which will include the sample IMA.

Referral Identifier Tool

A web-based application has been developed to allow municipalities to tell whether a parcel of land falls within the jurisdiction of the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development. Those parcels that fall within the buffers identified in this tool may need to be referred for review under NYS GML §239.

Planning Federation Short Course

On Wednesday, November 18th, the Dutchess County Planning Federation will host a training session on the *Ins and Outs of the SEQRA Short Environmental Assessment Form*.

Agency Partner Grants

Applications for the APG (Agency Partner Grants) were released on Monday. They are due by January 8, 2016.

Partnership for Manageable Growth

Eoin distributed packets containing six (6) applications for review. Board members were asked to review the applications and complete the spreadsheets with the weighting criteria and return them by 11/25/15.

Eoin explained that as you are scoring the applications, you should not worry about the available funding. Score the applications based on the value and criteria shown in the application.

DCWWA has the infrastructure part and received one application.

A discussion ensued as to whether or not we should discuss these in January and schedule site visits in February. The ranking of High/Medium/Low should be done after the site visit. Joel stated that sometimes, a site visit could influence your weighting. Eoin pointed out that the County Executive will make the final decision.

It was noted that the project with the highest cost per acre was the Duncandale Farms. The highest percentage of funding as the total cost was the Manne Farm.

It was discussed that just last week, NYS announced their Hudson Valley Open Space funding program for Hudson Valley counties, roughly \$21M. We are trying to get the definition of "Hudson Valley Counties" to determine where the funding could be used. If we end up with a balance of funds, and there are other applications, that might be an opportunity to do a second round of applications. Many of our applicants can apply for this funding and should have indicated such on their applications. If there is a way for us to reasonably accelerate our process to reflect guaranteed funding for our applicants, that would help the applicants considerably in obtaining the NYS funding.

Joel asked what the minimum gross is for an agriculture value? Eoin said he would have to check and confirm that information. Joel wants everyone to be using the same criteria. Economic viability should not be based on just gross value.

Brian will expand upon the criteria in the email to give more detailed direction to the Board. As long as you are consistent yourself with the way you score the applications, then you're being fair. If we see scores of all 4's and then we see a random 1, that would trigger us to raise questions during our discussion.

Eoin felt it would be beneficial to have a map reflects what we know is preserved open space. He will have that prepared for our January meeting.

Board members were encouraged to share any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions as they move through the process so that we can edit and improve the process in the future.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2016, at which time we will set the schedule for the year, appoint officers and review our bylaws.

With no new business proposed, Hans Hardisty motioned to adjourn the meeting and Michael Dupree seconded. The meeting ended at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Schara